



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

# THE DOCTORAL RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Volume: 11, Issue 11

April 2017

## ELEVENTH ISSUE

INSTITUTE of GRADUATE STUDIES

IGS Biannual Publication

**Name :** RUWAIDY BIN MAT RASUL

**Title :** THE CHALLENGES OF WHEELCHAIR PRESCRIPTION ASSESSMENT ON APPROPRIATENESS AND PRACTICAL DESIGN FOR MALAYSIAN USERS

**Supervisor :** ASSOC. PROF. DR. MOHAMAD HARIRI HJ. ABDULLAH (MS)



The wheelchair has become a main assistive tool for a person with mobility impairment in assisting them to perform daily life activities, and thus maintaining their quality of life. For this reason, the wheelchair was created in various types of design to fulfil the specific categories of mobility. Therefore with a good understanding of their nature mobility, the wheelchair is created to pursue something that reflects their needs. This will then affect the user's abilities and function. Without a correct wheelchair prescription, the users will suffer in term of ability functionality, physical deformities and overall, affect the user's quality of life. One of constrain faced by the wheelchair users, is the need to purchase their own wheelchair. Further to that, the unnecessarily expensive price for a wheelchair creates an additional budget constrain towards the wheelchair users. For this reason, the related government agencies and private organizations offered several schemes to the eligible applicants in obtaining a free wheelchair. However, most of the applicants and recipients didn't receive the exact materials as what was prescribed according to their needs and requirements, in the given schemes. Therefore this research tend to investigate further their needs, constrains, assessment process and satisfaction. As a result to that, the suggestion and recommendation will be proposed in tackling the issues raised. The quantitative approach is used in the first phase to reveal what are the real issues behind the wheelchair users. Following that, the generalizations of ideas can be made. In acquiring further in-depth information's, the qualitative approach has been used upon the selected participants, suing the interview protocol that provided a more detailed

and specific data. On the other hand, to familiarize the social interactions towards the wheelchair users, observational study has been conducted. Thus, providing important information's towards social norms against the wheelchair users. As a result, the wheelchair assessment is vital in prescribing towards persons of mobility impairments in determining the suitable types of wheelchair. Moreover, their needs and requirement needs to be included within the prescriptions in relation to their physical ability and limitations. In addition to that, the proposed system in providing the wheelchair provision is faced with issues in the bureaucracy. With this, the wheelchair users would have to wait within 1 – 3 months for their expected wheelchair, which in the end affects the user's daily activities. Likewise to getting what the user's deserve, the wheelchair users are faced with another predicament, which is to accept the wheelchairs that doesn't fit the needs of the user; i.e., types of wheelchair, some parts / accessories may deferent in specifications or sizes. There is a need to reviews the procedure of wheelchair provisions as part of research conclusions. It is important to reduce the time frames to build a strong communications between prescribers, users, organisations and wheelchairs suppliers. As recommendations, a standardized assessment formats as a guideline has to be created in obtaining vital information's in prescribing prescriptions. Furthermore, a proper guideline (pocket books) for prescribers / users/ organizations provided with information's regarding types of impairments to co-relate with types / accessories of wheelchair in term of suitability and costs needed to be produced.